

6-25-23

# Jeremiah

c. 650–570 BC

chapters

- 1 The Prophet's Call
- 2 Nature of Betrayal
- 7 Nature of Destruction

## 12 Nature of Compassion

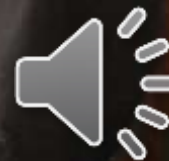
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- 23 Nature of t
- 29 Nature of S
- 31 Nature of E
- 35 Nature of a
- 36 Nature of C
- 42 Nature of T
- 52 Jerusalem

*Lamentations*

**12:16** IF they learn well the ways of my people  
and swear by my name, saying,  
**'As surely as the Lord Lives'—**  
... then they will be established

**Nature of  
Compassion**

**12 thru 17**



Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of  
Jerusalem, c. 1630, by Rembrandt



Join Virginia & Me ~ Tuesday July 4

Leave FBC 0900 ~ Breakfast in Bmt @ Cracker Barrel

Movie 12:00 ~ Luxury Lounge XD ~ 6 *Extra* Tickets Reserved



**INDIANA  
JONES**  
and the  
DIAL OF DESTINY

The image shows the title logo for the movie "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny". The words "INDIANA" and "JONES" are written in a large, bold, stylized font with a 3D effect and a gradient from dark brown to light gold. Below "JONES", the words "and the" are in a smaller, plain font, and "DIAL OF DESTINY" is in a larger, bold, sans-serif font, also with a 3D effect and gradient.

**Jer 17:12** A Glorious Throne,  
Exalted from the Beginning,  
is the place of OUR Sanctuary.

**13** Lord, you are the hope of Israel ....

Jeremiah 17:12-13, C. H. Spurgeon said in 1884

No doubt the prophet had his eye on the  
**Temple at Jerusalem.**

Seated upon the summit of a hill, with deep valleys ...

Temple stood aloft, above all, a noble structure, seen from afar.

To the Jew “Beautiful ... joy of the whole earth.”

That glittering temple of snow-white marble,  
adorned with abundance of gold,  
seemed it gleamed in the sun  
to be the lofty seat of Jehovah,

whereon God reigned in the midst of his people.



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo  
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome



**1972 John Fogerty wrote & sung  
a somber ballad for CCR**

**Kinda ... captures a Piece of the Pathos  
Portion of the Problem in the Pounding Pity**

**First thing I remember**

**Was asking Papa, "Why?"**

**For there were many things I didn't know**

**And Daddy always smiled**

**Took me by the hand**

**Saying, "SOMEDAY you'll understand"**



Jeremiah 12 is easily divided into sections

12:1-4 Jeremiah Bears His Heart to God

12:5-17 God Answers

Perhaps – Josiah dies BEFORE chap 17

Remember, Jer. 21, Zedekiah is Last King

Somewhere between Jer 12 & 20 Josiah DIES

AFTER Josiah, we have 3 kings & 2 Deportations

Chaps 13-17 God's Judgement in Compassion

13 – Buy Linen Belt, later Rots, Pride of Judah Rots

Your hope for light will turn to deep gloom

14 – Drought, Famine – Donkey Pants like a Jackal

15 – Even if Moses & Samuel, No heart - Sword Kills, Dogs Drag

Jeremiah laments birth, God makes him wall of Bronze

16 – Jeremiah NOT to marry – Disaster for False Gods

17 - Judah's Sin Engraved as Iron – Cursed who Trust Man

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord ...”



<b>Samaria Destroyed 721/22</b>		
Good King Josiah	640	reforms initiated
Jeremiah Called in 13th yr Josiah	626	Perhaps 20 yrs old
Nabopolassar RAISES Babylon	625	reigns 625-605
<del>Babylon takes Nineveh/Assyria</del>	612	
Egypt's Neco KILLS Josiah @ Megiddo	609	
Jeremiah Laments death of Josiah		II Chron 35:25
Jehoahaz	609	
Jehoiakim	609	
Babylon - Nebuchadnezzar	605	reigns 605-562
<del>Babylon X Egypt's Neco @ Charchemish</del>	605	
Neb @ Jerusalem ~ Daniel to Babylon	605	1st Deportation
	600	
Neb @ Jerusalem appoints Jehoiachin	598	3 months
Neb @ Jerusalem	597	2nd Deportation
Neb renames Josiah's son Zedekiah	597	Josiah's son Mattaniah
Jeremiah foretold 70 yrs Captivity		Jer. 29:29
Jeremiah persecuted ch 38		Jer. 36-38
<del>Babylon Neb Destroys JERUSALEM</del>	586	3rd Deportation
Zedekiah Flees, is killed		Fall itself - Jer. 39-45
Jeremiah w Gedaliah ch 39		
Jeremiah - others to Egypt ch 43		Jeremiah if 30 in 626
Last words of Jeremiah 44:24-30		he's 70+ yrs old
Words of Jeremiah to Baruch		
Cyrus the Great - Jews to Return	538	67 yrs later
Second Temple Complete	515	under Zerubbabel
Ezra in Jerusalem	458	His bk written c. 440
Nehemiah in Jerusalem	445	His bk written c. 430



**12:1** You are always righteous, Lord,  
when I bring a case before you.

Yet I would speak with you about your justice:  
Why does the way of the wicked prosper?  
Why do all the faithless live at ease?

That's a question the best minds have asked

That's a question every victim asks

That's a question **EVERYONE** asks when they

**SEE EVIL on GOOD PEOPLE**

**2** You – God – have planted them, and  
they have taken root;

they grow and bear fruit.

You are always on their **LIPS**

but **FAR** from their **HEARTS.**

**Everyone wants God on their side ... just don't want to be on HIS SIDE**



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo  
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome



1972 John Fogerty wrote/sung ballad for CCR

Well, I'm here to tell you now  
each and every mother's son

You better **LEARN** it fast,  
you better **LEARN** it young

'Cause **SOMEDAY** never comes



**12:3 Yet you KNOW ME, Lord;  
YOU SEE ME**

**& test my thoughts about you.**

**Drag them off like sheep to be BUTCHERED!  
Set them apart for the day of SLAUGHTER!**

**4 How long will the land lie PARCHED &  
the grass in every field be WITHERED?**

**Because those who live in it are WICKED,  
the animals & birds have PERISHED.**

**Moreover, the people are saying,  
“He will not see what happens to us.”**

**Seems Jeremiah’s aware of the 400-year-old**

**Psalm 139:1 Oh, Lord you’ve searched me ...**

**139:21 Do I not HATE those who HATE thee**

**When someone attacks the one YOU LOVE ...**



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo  
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome





**Jere 12:3 Drag them off like  
SHEEP TO BE BUTCHERED!**

**Psalm 139:21**

**Do I not HATE those who HATE thee**

**When someone ATTACKS the one YOU LOVE ...**

**When EVIL happens to GOOD PEOPLE**

**Yet Jeremiah is looking at HIS own PEOPLE**

**What God did on Calvary ... Saved US**

- ✓ **God's Great LOVE on Display ... yes, yes**
- ✓ **ALSO God's Great Judgment & Atonement**
- ✓ **God saw that WE CANNOT SAVE ourselves**
- ✓ **God saw that WE CANNOT KEEP HIS STANDARD**
- ✓ **NO ONE IS AS COMPETENT AS CHRIST ...**

**Understands our weakness ... tolerates to a POINT**



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo  
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome



## God answers Jeremiah 12:5-17

**12:5** “If you have raced with men on foot  
and they’ve worn you out,  
how can you compete with horses?

If you stumble in safe country, how will you  
manage in the thickets by the Jordan?

God SEES Jeremiah’s HEART ...

God SEES Jeremiah’s CONFUSION ...

- ✓ HOW can Judah, God’s Anointed be so VILE?
- ✓ How can women bake cakes for Queen of Heaven?
- ✓ How can men bow down to STONE & WOOD?
- ✓ How can SEX control so much of life
- ✓ HOW can one oppress the widow & orphan?

God touches Jeremiah’s HEART ... END is COMING



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo  
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome



1972 John Fogerty wrote/sung ballad for CCR

The time and tears went by  
And I collected DUST

For there were many things I didn't know

When Daddy went away  
He said, "Try to be a MAN

And SOMEDAY you'll understand"



## God continues to answer Jeremiah 12:5-17

**12:6** Your relatives,  
members of your own family—  
even they've betrayed you;  
they've raised a loud cry against you.  
Do NOT trust them,  
though they speak well of you.

**7** I will forsake my house, abandon my inheritance;  
I will give the one **I LOVE**  
into the hands of her enemies.

Almost incomprehensible ... almost too much  
Is that LOVE at all? What LOVE is that?

James Dobson's *Love Must be Tough* (1996)  
Single Greatest Cause for Marriage Conflict:



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo  
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome



**DISRESPECT**

*God continues His answer to Jeremiah 12:5-17*

**12:8 My inheritance has become to me  
like a LION in the forest.**

**She roars at me; therefore I HATE her.**

**9 Has not my inheritance become to me  
like a speckled bird of prey that  
other birds of prey surround and attack?**

**Go and gather ALL the wild beasts;  
bring them to devour.**

**God who DELIVERED & Protected Israel**

**Judah made GOD's HOUSE a Den of THIEVES**

**Now GOD does NOT need to justify HIMSELF**

**Yet SEE GOD telling Jeremiah TOUGH LOVE**



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo  
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome



*God continues His answer to Jeremiah 12:5-17*

**12:10** Many shepherds will ruin my vineyard  
and trample down my field;  
they will turn my pleasant field  
into a desolate wasteland.

**11** It will be made a wasteland,  
parched and desolate before me;  
the whole land will be laid waste  
because there is **NO ONE** who cares.

**12** Over all the barren heights in the desert  
**DESTROYERS WILL SWARM,**  
for the sword of the Lord will devour  
from one end of the land to the other;  
**NO ONE** will be safe.

**What a sad song ... God will NOT be MOCKED**



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo  
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome



1972 John Fogerty wrote/sung ballad for CCR

And then one day in April  
I wasn't even there

For there were many things I didn't know

A son was born to me  
Mama held his hand, saying

**"SOMEDAY you'll understand"**



*God continues His answer to Jeremiah 12:5-17*

**12:13 They will sow wheat but reap thorns;  
they will wear themselves out  
but gain NOTHING.**

**They will bear the shame of their harvest  
because of the Lord's FIERCE ANGER."**

**Ephesian 4:26-27 "Be angry & do not sin.  
Do not let the sun go down on your anger,  
and give no opportunity to the devil"**

**Never does the Bible say ANGER itself is bad  
Righteous ANGER ... indignation ... can IMPEL  
Yet if ANYONE has a right to "ANGER" it's GOD  
We MUST recognize that GOD is always RIGHT**



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo  
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome





*God continues His answer to Jeremiah 12:5-17*

**12:14 This is what the Lord says:**

**“As for all my wicked NEIGHBORS who seize the inheritance I gave my people Israel, I will uproot THEM from their lands and I will uproot ... Judah from among them.**

**God will USE Babylon to Uproot Judah**

**Under Zedekiah, Babylon will DESTROY Jerusalem—586 B.C.**

**Then God will DESTROY BABYLON under Cyrus allow Jews to rebuild Jerusalem 70 yrs later**

**Romans 12:19 Vengeance is mine;**

**I will repay, saith the Lord**

**God uses Babylon to PUNISH Judah for Evil**

**God PUNISHES Babylon for TAKING Judah**



**REMEMBER** this is God continuing

**His answer to Jeremiah's HEART 12:5-17**

In a way, God gives Jeremiah **HOPE**

**12:15 But after I uproot them,**

**I will again have compassion and  
will bring each of them back to their  
own inheritance & their own country.**

**There is HOPE on the HORIZON ...**

**an unknown future & *DISTANT* HORIZON ...**

**though NOT IN Jeremiah's LIFE**

**RETURN after the final 3rd deportation to Babylon**

**RETURN after Jerusalem is destroyed in 586 B.C.**

**THIS RETURN from Babylonian Exile has some**

**FINE PRINT**



*God continues His answer to Jeremiah 12:5-17*

**12:16** And IF they learn well  
the ways of my people  
and swear by my name, saying,

**‘As surely as the Lord LIVES’—**  
even as they once taught  
my people to swear by Baal—

**THEN** they will be established among my people.

**17** But if any nation does NOT listen,  
I will completely uproot & destroy it,”  
declares the Lord.

**Key to Nation’s SUCCESS: Listen to God**  
**Notice the PHRASE God wants to hear MORE**

**As surely as the Lord LIVES**



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo  
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome



God reveals a favored Hebrew colloquialism  
i.e., phrase **GOD WANTS** to hear **AGAIN**

**12:16 ‘As surely as the Lord LIVES’**

**1 Kings 2:24 “As surely as the LORD lives—  
he who has established me—Solomon ...  
—Adonijah shall be put to death today!”**

**Jeremiah 4:1-2 “put your detestable idols out of my sight ...  
and if in a truthful, just and righteous way you swear,  
‘As surely as the Lord lives’  
then nations will invoke blessings by him.”**

**Appears over 30x in O.T., often in Life/Death  
As a HIGH OATH ... High Oath favored by God**

**Like Shema prayer for Jews ... Deut. 6:4-9 *first part***

**“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord”**



What MEANS “As surely the Lord lives”

As CERTAIN as God RULES Heaven  
I will do THIS - THAT - Follow Thru

As SURELY as God CREATED ALL  
I will KEEP my word – Make this WORK

As CERTAIN as God SPREAD the Stars  
I will REMAIN faithful to my SPOUSE

As SURELY as the ALMIGHTY God LIVES  
I will PROTECT my Children & Home

As CERTAIN as the ETERNAL God LIVES  
I will do my BEST to Love GOD

High Oath Anchored in God's ETERNAL LIFE



**Judges 8:19** 'Gideon, "as the Lord lives, if you had saved them alive, I would not slay you

**Ruth 3:13** Boaz to Ruth, "As the Lord lives, I will redeem you.

**1 Sam 14:39** Saul, "As the Lord lives, if guilt is in my son Jonathan, he shall certainly die."

**1 Sam 20:21** Jonathan to David, "If say ... 'the Arrows are on this side, get them' then it is safe No danger, as the Lord lives."

**2 Kings 2:4** Elisha to Elijah, "As the Lord lives, as your soul lives, I will not leave you."

**Jeremiah 5x more 16:14, 16:15, 23:7, 23:8, 38:16**

**Jer 38:16** King Zedekiah swore secretly to Jeremiah, "As the Lord lives, who made our lives, be assured that I will not put you to death or hand you over."

**Jer. 12:16** **God LIKES to hear that Oath**



**IF sincere ...IF TRUE**  
**Here is proper way to**  
**swear by God**



**12:16** IF they learn well the ways of my people  
and swear by my name, saying,

**‘As surely as the Lord LIVES’—**

even as they once taught ...

my people to swear by Baal—

**THEN** they will be established among my people.

**If NOT ... “SOMEDAY” – *that understanding***

**“SOMEDAY” comes NOT** to the eyes of Judah

Well, I'm here to tell you now  
each and every mother's son

You better **LEARN** it fast,  
you better **LEARN** it young

**'Cause SOMEDAY never comes**



**Somewhere between Jer 12 & 20 Josiah DIES  
AFTER Josiah, 3 kings & 2 Deportations**

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Jeremiah laments birth, God make him wall of Bronze**

**16 – Jeremiah NOT to marry – Disaster for False Gods**

**17 - Judah's Sin Engraved as Iron – Cursed who Trust Man  
“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord ...”**

**Jeremiah 12:16 And IF they learn ... saying,**

**‘As surely as the Lord LIVES’—**

**Redemption & Mercy *IF* ...**

**IF ... IF ... IF ... IF ... IF ... IF**

Jeremiah Timeline		
Samaria Destroyed	721/22	
Good King Josiah	640	reforms initiated
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Words of Jeremiah to Baruch		
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**AFTER Jeremiah 12 thru 16 ...  
see another masterpiece**

**Jeremiah 17:7 “But blessed  
is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
whose confidence is in Him.**

**8 They will be like a tree planted by the water  
that sends out its roots by the stream.**

**Oh, Jeremiah has read 400-yr-old Psalm 1**

**8 Tree does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green ...**

**9 The heart is deceitful above all things  
and beyond cure.**

**Who can understand it?**

**God asks Jeremiah ... then God answers**



In the midst of Coming Judgments  
midst of multiple levels of destruction ...

**Jeremiah 17:10** “I the Lord search the heart  
examine the mind, to reward each person  
according to their conduct,  
according to what their deeds deserve.”

**11** Like a partridge hatches eggs it did not lay  
are those who gain riches by unjust means....

Wow ... wow to Judah ...

Wow ... to the Adulterer & Idolator ...

Wow ... to those who ...

Continuous story of Escalating Sorrow

**Jeremiah – Weeping Prophet to a Deaf People**



Then comes ... oh ... again  
Jeremiah waxes poetic

**12 A Glorious Throne,  
Exalted from the Beginning,  
is the place of OUR Sanctuary.**

**13 Lord, you are the HOPE of Israel;  
all who forsake you will be put to shame....**

**14 Heal me, Lord, and I will be HEALED;  
Save me and I will be SAVED,  
For you are the one I praise.**

Jer 17:12-13, Spurgeon exquisitely said in 1884

**Our text is as a lily among thorns,  
as a rose in the wilderness;  
the solitary place shall be glad for it,  
and the desert shall rejoice.**



**Jer 17:12-13, Spurgeon said in 1884 ...**

**The words sound like sweet music  
amid the crash of a tempest.**

**The bitter tree yields us sweet fruit.**

**The weeping prophet wipes away our tears.**

**I do not know that the whole of Scripture  
contains more delightful promises  
than those which fell from the lips of  
this son of sorrow,**

**who has been to so many a son of consolation.**

**May God grant that this lily to-day  
may be exceeding lovely in your eyes  
as you see it in the sunlight of the Holy Spirit.**



Jer 17:12-13, Spurgeon said in 1884 ...

**The passage before us is a very BROKEN ONE.**

**Those acquainted with the original tongue will tell you it is difficult to construe it.**

**It is a fragmentary passage, and several meanings have been given to it.**

**Do you not know the reason of this?**

**Should not a broken heart use BROKEN WORDS?**

**When have you been in great trouble, and have drawn nigh to God,**

**You have often had to pour out your heart in faltering accents.**

**Nor does this destroy our prayer, or even shorten its pull on heaven.**



**Jer 17:13** Lord, you are the hope of Israel;  
all who forsake you will be put to shame....

**14** Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed;  
save me and I will be saved,  
for you are the one I praise.

Jer 17:12-13, Spurgeon continued in 1884 ...

**Our God can put our speech together  
when we cannot put it together ourselves.**

**A sigh here and a cry there,  
an utterance of faith at one moment  
and a groan of sorrow at the next:**

**these make up the patchwork to ourselves ...**

**God reads the meaning of his saints, and  
understands the LANGUAGE of their SIGHS.**



## Jeremiah again LAMENTS

Jeremiah 17:15 “They keep saying to me,  
“Where is the word of the Lord?

Let it now be fulfilled!”

16 I have not run from being your shepherd;  
you know I have not desired

the Day of Despair

What passes my lips is open before you.

17 Do not be a terror to me;  
you are my refuge in the Day of Disaster.

Even Jeremiah does NOT FULLY grasp

God tasked Jeremiah to Forecast Destruction

**WHEN** is far from CLEAR to Jeremiah



1972 John Fogerty wrote/sung ballad for CCR

Think it was September  
The year I went away

For there were many things I didn't know  
And I still see him standin'  
Tryin' to be a man

I said,  
"SOMEDAY you'll understand"





**Jeremiah KNOWS ... yet also FEARS**

**Jeremiah 17:18**

**Let my persecutors be put to shame,  
but keep me from shame;**

**Let them be terrified,  
but keep me from terror.**

**Bring on them the Day of Disaster;  
declares the Lord.**

**Jeremiah's Lament is FROM himself & the Lord**

**Likely, at this point Josiah has died, and  
some of the JUDGMENT has started ...  
Perhaps the 1st of 3 deportations to Babylon**

**"SOMEDAY" of understanding ...**

**Never came for Judah ... took Exile to AWAKEN Them**



What's YOUR oath to the Lord?

**SOMEDAY** ... came to you many times  
As Father, Mother, Grandparent ... Friend  
You stuck it out—

“As Surely as the Lord Lives”

YOU made an oath ... to Care, to Love, to be Faithful

“As Surely as the Lord Lives”

Russian Poet Apollon Maikov (1821-1897) wrote:

If you wish to live without struggle,  
without storm, without knowing the  
bitterness of life, to ripe old age,  
do not seek a friend and  
do not call yourself anyone's friend.\*

Endurance? YOU?—“As Surely as the Lord Lives”



\* Pavel Florensky's massive, *The Pillar and Ground of the Truth* (1997), 323.

(Princeton, 1997;